

## C l a i m s

1. A method of reducing the oxygen content of seawater,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that seawater is  
introduced into the upper part (14) of a downcomer (12),  
5 whereby a pressure drop arises, especially in the upper  
part (14), facilitating the release of gases from the  
seawater, the separated gas being able to leave the  
seawater after flowing through the downcomer (12)  
together with the seawater.
- 10 2. A method according to Claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that nitrogenous  
gas is added to the ballast water at the upper part  
(14).
- 15 3. A method according to Claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the seawater  
is made to flow via the downcomer to the lower part (15)  
of the downcomer (12) and preferably in the horizontal  
direction into the upper part (18) of a vertical  
separating pipe (16), the released gases being extracted  
20 through an extraction pipe (20) coupled to the upper  
part (18) at a slightly higher level than that of the  
point of connection of the downcomer (12) to the  
separating pipe (16), and where the seawater is led out  
of the lower portion of the separating pipe (16).
- 25 4. A device for reducing the oxygen content of seawater,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the device  
comprises a downcomer (12) designed to receive seawater  
through its upper part (14).
- 30 5. A device according to Claim 4,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the upper part  
(14) of the downcomer (12) communicates with a gas pipe

(15), where the gas pipe (15) is arranged to deliver nitrogenous gas to the downcomer (12).

6. A device according to Claim 4,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that a water supply  
5 (10) is connected to the upper part (14) of a downcomer (12), the lower part (15) of the downcomer (12) being coupled, preferably in the horizontal direction, to the upper part (18) of a vertical separating pipe (16),  
10 wherein the upper part (18) is coupled to an extraction pipe (20) at a slightly higher level than that of the point of connection of the downcomer (12) to the separating pipe (16).

7. A device according to Claim 6,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the connection  
15 between the downcomer (12) and the separating pipe (16) is tangential.

8. A device according to Claim 6,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the lower part  
20 of the separating pipe (16) discharges into the ballast tank (4) of a ship (1).